THE DISSEMINATOR

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ACCESSIBLE CANADIAN LIBRARY

On March 12, Katherine Miller of the National Library of Canada facilitated a workshop at the Provincial Library called the Accessible Canadian Library. The workshop focused on ways that libraries can be more accessible to people with disabilities. Ms. Miller used a number of techniques to illustrate difficulties faced by these people when they use the library. Among the problems discussed were difficulties reaching upper and lower shelves by people in wheelchairs, stack layout and placement, bathroom ac cessibility, and signage. Some of the latest advancements in adaptive technologies were also discussed. Most of the 25 attendees were from the Halifax Regional Library and the Provincial Library.

INFORMATION RIGHTS WEEK

The fourth annual Information Rights Week will be celebrated across Canada from April 21-27, 1997. Once again, the Provincial Library has invited other libraries, organizations and associations who have an interest in protecting information rights in Canada to join in requesting that the Minister of Education and Culture, the Honourable Robbie Harrison, proclaim April 21-27, 1997 as Information Rights Week in Nova Scotia.

This year's sponsors include the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (Halifax Chapter), Atlantic Publishers Association, Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services, Chebucto Community Network, Halifax Library Association, Nova Scotia Federation of Community Networks, Nova Scotia Government Employees Union, Nova Scotia Government Libraries Council, Nova Scotia Legislative Library, Nova Scotia Library Association, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Nova Scotia School Librar y Association, and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

Sponsored by the Canadian Library Association, Information Rights Week provides an opportunity to increase the public's awareness of information rights issues, such as the impact of information technologies in areas like confidentiality of personal information and the access to government information. Libraries are encouraged to promote events that increase public awareness of libraries and information rights during that week.

Posters celebrating Information Rights Week for 1997 are available free of charge from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library on a first-come first-served basis. To obtain one, please contact Debbie Ross (rossdl@gov.ns.ca) at 424-2457.

HEALTH INFORMATION ROUND TABLE

Due to the changing nature of health care, individuals and organizations charged with providing health education are facing exploding public demand for relevant health information. Libraries are ideally positioned, because of their strong existing networks and their tradition of resource sharing, to provide public access to community and consumer health information. Initiatives are underway in Yarmouth , Wolfville, Sydney and Halifax where libraries and health information providers are teaming up to share resources and streamline information access for the public.

A Round Table on Community and Consumer Health Information was held on February 28 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. The steering committee which organized the session was made up of Jackie MacDonald, Librarian for Yarmouth Regional Health Sciences Library; Laura Jantek, Adult Services Coordinator for Halifax Regional Library; and Debbie Taylor, Acting User Services Coordinator for the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. Mr. Larry Worthen facilitated the two hour session.

This initiative brought together representatives from organizations, associations, libraries and government services province-wide who are charged with providing community and consumer health information and education programs. They discussed issues involved in developing a new approach to delivering community and consumer health information in response to the health reforms recently initiated in Nova Scotia. Evaluations following the session indicated that most participants found it useful for airing the diversity of opinion on how quality consumer and community health information should be provided. Most felt that further discussions are necessary before a consensus can be achieved on how best to proceed.

The steering committee has been enlarged to include: Marjorie Willison, President, Public Health Association of Nova Scotia; Bruce Dienes, Wellness On-Line Project Manager, Centre for Community and Entreprise Networking; Susan Lilley, Nova Scotia Facilitator for the Community Health Promotion Network; and John Ouellette, Director L'Ardoise Entreprise Initiative. The committee is charged with furthering the discussions begun at the Round Table to develop a network of community and consumer health informatio n providers province-wide.

In addition, a "wellness" listserv has been set up to provide a forum for those interested in community and consumer health information delivery in Nova Scotia. To subscribe, send a message to: majordomo@ccen.uccb.ns.ca and type "subscribe wellness" (without the quotation marks) in the body of your message. To post a message to the list, send it to: wellness@ccen.uccb.ns.ca.

NORTHERN EXPOSURE TO LEADERSHIP

The third annual Northern Exposure to Leadership programme, to take place at the Emerald Lake Lodge in Yoho National Park, British Columbia from October 2 - 7, 1997, has been announced. The programme is intended to motivate librarians who have been identified as having leadership potential and to assist them in developing their individual leadership skills.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 26 candidates to the programme. The criteria for nominations require that candidates be graduates of an accredited library school, that they have a minimum of two years (but ideally less than 7 years) of professional experience, and that they have exhibited strong leadership potential. Only nominations from employers, library schools or library organizations will be considered. Meals and accommodations will be provided, thanks to the generous support of Dynix Ca nada. For more information about the programme and/or nomination requirements, please contact Ernie Ingles at (403) 492-5170; Fax (403) 492-1439; e-mail: ernie.ingles@ualberta.ca.

NcompasS AUTOMATION UPDATE

Western Counties Regional Library is continuing to prepare for automating their circulation processes, adding item records for additional copies to the bibliographic records now populating their bank - Bank 5. Circulation is expected to begin branch by branch early this spring.

Annapolis Valley Regional Library's bank - Bank 6, has been populated by bibliographic records extracted from Bank 1 as well as item records from their in-house Oracle database. Once the checking of these records is complete, smart barcodes will be produced and the collection will be barcoded branch by branch. Both Acquisitions and Circulation modules are expected to be implemented early this spring.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library and Colchester-East Hants Regional Library are both involved in retrospective conversion and preparing their patron databases for their own banks - Bank 7 and 8 respectively. We understand that Colchester-East Hants has completed their patron database.

The Provincial Library is currently converting the patron database records from the South Shore Regional Library's stand-alone patron database to a MultiLIS-compatible format. The final stage of SSRL's Recon is about to begin at the Provincial Library, a project which will likely take 6 months to complete.

Cape Breton Regional Library has recently submitted their Automation Grant application and active implementation of the automation process will begin when their Recon project approaches completion.

AUTOMATION WORKING GROUP MEETS

The AWG met at the Provincial Library on February 21, with at least one representative from each regional library (except Cumberland Regional Library which had to cancel due to poor weather). Each regional library had previously submitted a report of their automation activities of the past three months and these were reviewed briefly in a round table discussion.

The future of Banks 2 and 3, copies of pre-amalgamation Halifax City and Dartmouth databases, were discussed and it was decided that Bank 3 (Dartmouth) could be deleted as soon as roughly 200 records matched for Recon had been copied to Bank 1 by Provincial Library staff. A different solution must be found for Bank 2, as several regional libraries are still using it for their Recon projects.

As the regional libraries move through the automation process, several changes to previous procedures, such as deleting records in a regional library's own bank as well as the representative record in Bank 1, will be required. New procedures were proposed and have now been implemented.

The acquisitions module will be implemented in the Annapolis Valley Regional Library and the Provincial Library for April 1. Other regional libraries expressed interest in implementing the module part way through the financial year, even if the funding capabilities of the module would not be fully exploited for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The elimination of the backlog in Fiction cataloguing at the Provincial Library was discussed as was the need for the regional libraries to be ever more vigilant in identifying materials which are already in the system before sending them to the Provincial Library for cataloguing. Other discussions included cataloguing of paperbacks and bulk purchasing of barcode readers. The next AWG meeting is scheduled for April 25 at the Annapolis Valley Regional Library's headquarters at Bridgetown.

LINKed

This time I'm focusing on interesting and unusual reference type sites. If you know of any interesting sites or if you would like to suggest a theme for future columns, please e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

Rulers of the World
http://www.geocities .co om/Athens/1058/rulers.html
- All current and some historical heads of state are listed here by country. For Canada, even provincial leaders are listed. Anyone know the name of the current Prime Minister of Norway? (Thorbjorn Jagland)

Find-a-grave
http://www.orci.com/perso nal l/jim/index.html
- Want to find out where someone famous is buried? There are two indexes here so you can search either by a person's name or by geographic location. You can scan a list of famous people buried in a particular cemetery like the Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. Is Rachmaninoff really buried in New York state??

Learn the manly art of tying a bow-tie
http://www.tcf.ua.edu/bowtie/
- I don't think this one needs any explanation.

Prices in Japan
http://www.roo t.o or.jp/Dipper'sJapan/Prices/Prices.html
- It seems that Japan is not nearly as expensive as we're led to believe. Check out the cost, in U.S. dollars, of some typical purchases in Japan. The only really crazy thing I saw is that it costs $640.89 to

get a phone installed! -- Sue Dirani

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. Patron wants information on raising emus.

A. The keywords "emu production" were entered into the InfoSeek search engine (http://www.infoseek.com) and resulted in "Ratite Information Resources On the WWW" (http://duke.usask.ca/~ladd/rat fra am.htm). This site had two useful articles, "Emu Production" and "The incubation of Ratite Eggs" both by Dr. Joan S. Jeffrey (Extension Veterinarian, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System). Anoth er useful site which was found through InfoSeek was "UME Emu Farms Home Page (http://www.geocities.com/Wa llS Street/3223/).

Q. Patron wants to know how to build a straw bale house.

A. There is a lot of information on straw bale house construction on the Internet. Simply enter the phrase "straw bale" in any of the search engines to find it. Here are some sites which turned up using the Excite search engine (www.excite.com): Straw Bale Annotated Bibliography (www.xmission.com:80 /~s shea/straw/anbib.html); Straw Bale Construction Web Information (solstice.crest.org/efficiency/straw_insulation n/index.html); Straw Bale Homes : The e-zine of the straw bale community (www.strawhomes.com/index.html); ; The Last Straw, the print-media journal of straw-bale construction (www.netchaos.com/tls/index.htm l). -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

This month's column features two books of particular interest to public libraries. These items can be obtained from the Provincial Library's professional collection through regular interlibrary loan channels.

1) Walster, Dian - **Managing Time: a How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians**. New York: Neal - Schuman, 1993. (Call # Prof 025 .1 Wal)

- In this book, the author presents a thorough overview of the many aspects of managing time. As a practicing librarian and later as a library educator, Walster was concerned that the tasks which librarian's needed to accomplish were greater than the time available. The author's goal in writing this book is to help librarians choose time management techniques that improve both their personal and professional lives. The five essential components of time management - motivation, self-awareness, analysis p rocedures, implementation techniques and planning strategies - are integrated into a self-instructional framework, using structural design principles.

2) Willett, Holly G. - **Public Library Youth Services: a Public Policy Approach**. Norwood, NJ: Ablex Publishing, 1995. (Call # Prof 027 .626 Wil)

- This book is an analysis of the policy of providing public library services for young people. It examines criteria and evidence supporting the existing service, explores possible alternative policies and makes recommendations for public policy regarding youth services in public libraries. -- Frank Oram

(N.B. Frank is in the process of reviewing periodical subscriptions for our Professional Collection for the 1997/98 fiscal year. If you have any suggestions for serial titles in the area of Library and Information Science, please contact him as soon as possible by telephone at 424-2480 or by e-mail at oramfl@gov.ns.ca.